

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 10, 21, cancel claims 9 and 11-20 and add new claims 25-34 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A tube plug assembly comprising: a tube plug made of an elastomeric material and having a generally hollow body elongated along an axis, with a constant diameter smooth outer surface, a rounded front end and an open rear end leading to a central axially extending blind hole having a predetermined constant internal diameter extending substantially along an entire length of said hole; and a non-expandable insert member having a diameter slightly greater than said blind hole diameter; wherein, upon insertion of said insert member into said central blind hole of said tube plug, and without further manipulation of said insert, said tube plug body will be diametrically enlarged.

2. (Original) A tube plug assembly according to claim 1, wherein said insert member has an outer surface comprising annular ribs.

3. (Original) A tube plug assembly according to claim 2, wherein said ribs comprise reverse taper serrations.

4. (Original) A tube plug assembly according to claim 1, wherein said insert member has an enlarged head portion which prevents said insert member from being over inserted into said central blind hole.

5. (Original) A tube plug assembly according to claim 4, wherein said enlarged head portion includes a surface configuration arranged to accept a removal tool.

6. (Original) A tube plug assembly according to claim 5, wherein said surface configuration comprises a hole extending perpendicular to an axis of said insert member formed in said enlarged head portion.

7. (Original) A tube plug assembly according to claim 1, wherein said insert member is provided in a color contrasting to a color of said tube plug.

8. (Original) A tube plug assembly according to claim 1, wherein said insert member has an outer surface which engages an inner surface of said blind hole in a liquid tight manner.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) A tube plug assembly according to claim 9~~1~~, wherein said insert enlarges said diameter of said tube plug body along a full length of said insert.

11-20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) A tube plug assembly comprising: a tube plug made of an elastomeric material and having a generally hollow body elongated along an axis, with a smooth outer surface, a rounded front end and an open rear end leading to a central axially extending blind hole having a predetermined internal constant diameter extending substantially along an entire length of said hole; and a non-expandable insert member having a diameter extending substantially along its entire length which is slightly greater than said blind hole diameter, an outer surface comprising annular ribs and an enlarged head portion which prevents said insert member from being over inserted into said central blind hole; wherein, upon insertion of said insert member into said central blind hole of said tube plug, and without further manipulation of said insert, said tube plug body will be diametrically enlarged along substantially said full length of said insert.

22. (Original) A tube plug assembly according to claim 21, wherein said ribs comprise reverse taper serrations.

23. (Original) A tube plug assembly according to claim 21, wherein said enlarged head portion includes a surface configuration arranged to accept a removal tool.

24. (Original) A tube plug assembly according to claim 1, wherein said insert member is provided in a color contrasting to a color of said tube plug.

25. (New) A sealed tube comprising:
a tube having an interior passage with a constant predetermined diameter leading to an open end;

a tube plug made of an elastomeric material and having a generally hollow body elongated along an axis, with a rounded front end inserted into said open end of said tube, an exterior surface engaged with said interior passage of said tube along substantially an entire length of said exterior surface, and an open rear end leading to a central axially extending blind hole; and

a non-expandable insert member sized to engage with a wall forming said blind hole as said insert member is inserted into said tube plug, wherein, upon insertion of said tube plug into said open end of said tube and upon insertion of said insert member into said central blind hole of said tube plug, and without further manipulation of said insert, said tube plug body will be diametrically enlarged along substantially said full length of said insert, sealingly pressing said exterior surface of said tube plug into engagement with said interior passage of said tube.

26. (New) A sealed tube according to claim 25, wherein said exterior surface of said tube plug has a constant diameter along substantially the entire length of said tube plug.

27. (New) A sealed tube according to claim 25, wherein said insert member has a outer surface provided with a plurality of annular ribs.

28. (New) A sealed tube according to claim 25, wherein said ribs comprise reverse taper serrations.

29. (New) A sealed tube according to claim 25, wherein said insert member has an enlarged head portion which prevents said insert member from being over inserted into said central blind hole.

30. (New) A sealed tube according to claim 29, wherein said enlarged head portion includes a surface configuration arranged to accept a removal tool.

31. (New) A sealed tube according to claim 25, wherein said insert member is provided in a color contrasting to a color of said tube plug.

32. (New) A sealed tube according to claim 25, wherein said insert member has an outer surface which engages an inner surface of said blind hole in a liquid tight manner.

33. (New) A sealed tube according to claim 25, wherein said blind hole has a constant diameter extending substantially along its entire length.

34. (New) A sealed tube according to claim 33, wherein said insert enlarges said diameter of said tube plug body along a full length of said insert.